



Michigan Department of  
**Labor & Economic Growth**

## **Speakers Bureau**

**2006**



*If you're interested in learning more about economic and workforce development programs and services in the State of Michigan, the DLEG Speakers' Bureau is here to help. Our speakers, listed below, are available to school and community organizations, civic groups, and business and industry. To schedule a speaker, please call (517) 373-9280 or e-mail [mediainfo@michigan.gov](mailto:mediainfo@michigan.gov).*

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# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Robert W. Swanson became director of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth on May 30, 2006, after serving four months as acting director following the departure of former DLEG Director David C. Hollister.

Prior to February 2006, Swanson served for three years as a DLEG deputy director, coordinating and directing various agencies within the department, including MIOSHA, Financial and Insurance Services, Michigan Public Service Commission, Michigan Tax Tribunal, Career Development, Commercial Services, and various administrative programs. He was also involved in the development of the state's urban policy agenda, the Land Use Leadership Council, and workforce development and economic development initiatives.

During his tenure at DLEG, Swanson has also overseen implementation of several of the Governor's key economic transformation initiatives, including:

- Placement of 30,000 workers into jobs through the MI Opportunity Partnership;
- Streamlining of permitting and licensing through the Michigan Timely Application Permit Service (MiTAPS);
- Launch of the 2006 Cool Cities Grants and Planning Program; and,
- Administration of more than \$30 million in U.S. Department of Labor investments in regional development through the Workforce Innovation for Regional Economic Development (WIRED) program.

Prior to joining the Granholm Administration, Swanson served for more than eight years as director of finance for the City of Lansing. In this post, he led the team that put together Lansing's financing of Oldsmobile Park, was an active participant in the Retain GM effort that resulted in two new automobile assembly plants in Lansing, and played a major role in negotiating regional economic development agreements under Public Act 425.

He also has 22 prior years with the state of Michigan, serving as director of research and statistics, Michigan Department of Treasury; director of the Office of Planning, Budget, and Evaluation and director of the Budget and Legal Services Administration, Michigan Department of Social Services; and staff director, Committee on Taxation, Michigan House of Representatives.

A political science graduate of Michigan State University, Swanson has a master's degree in history, also from MSU.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## SHARON BOMMARITO

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

As deputy director for the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Sharon Bommarito oversees operations of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, Michigan Broadband Authority, Michigan Commission for the Blind, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Bureau of Fire Services, Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Bureau of Workforce Programs, Bureau of Construction Codes, Bureau of Employment Relations, Internal Audit, the Office of Technology and Media, and the Office of Media and Public Relations..

Sharon joined the Department as director of the Unemployment Insurance Agency in September 2003. As director, she managed the state agency that administers Michigan's unemployment insurance program.

Prior to joining the UIA, Sharon had been the director of personnel for the City of Lansing. She managed personnel services for the city's 1,200 employees and oversaw labor relations for nine bargaining units. She also administered the unemployment insurance, safety; training; workers' compensation; medical services; benefits; employee recognition; recruitment and selection, classification and compensation programs.

Sharon's previous state service includes serving as deputy director of personnel in Governor James Blanchard's office, coordinating operations in the human resources area. Sharon was also involved in the gubernatorial appointment process for state boards and commissions, judicial and statutory job appointments and was the governor's liaison with the Department of Civil Service.

Sharon is a graduate of Michigan State University.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## JAMES D. SMERTKA

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

James D. Smiertka has served as senior executive assistant director in the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) since February 2004. An attorney who has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit, U.S. District Court/Western District of Michigan, and all Michigan trial and appellate courts, Jim devotes much of his time to interpreting a broad range of policy and legal issues that encompass all parts of the department.

He also serves as the department's organizational development officer. This includes acting as the liaison between DLEG and the First Gentleman's Office of Great Workplace Development. He has responsibility for overseeing the action plans developed by each agency and bureau within the department that relate directly to Grow Michigan and the Governor's Vision and Values initiative.

In this regard, Jim also leads the Employee Growth & Development Team, whose charter is to guide all of DLEG's organizational development efforts, including employee recognition and growth.

A native of Detroit, Jim graduated from the University of Detroit with a bachelor's degree in business management with an emphasis on finance. He earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law, which is now part of Michigan State University.

His resume includes five years as a teacher and business school instructor, eight years as deputy city attorney for Pontiac, two years as general counsel for the Pontiac Silverdome, six years as senior vice president and internal legal counsel for an Oakland County bank, two years as assistant city attorney for Kalamazoo, and 10 years as city attorney for Lansing. Jim has also been in private legal practice throughout his career.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## KAREN M. GAGNON

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Karen M. Gagnon has been a dedicated public servant to the citizens of Michigan since 1987. She is currently assigned to spearhead the “Cool Cities” initiative, an urban strategy to revitalize communities, which is part of Governor Granholm’s economic development plan for Michigan.

In her current role, Ms. Gagnon helped develop the Cool Cities Initiative, [www.coolcities.com](http://www.coolcities.com), establish the multi-state agency Cool Cities Coordinating Team, and launch the Cool Cities Pilot program, which included the selection of 19 pilot projects receiving priority access to a newly created and innovative State Resource Toolbox. The pilot projects also received catalyst grants of up to \$100,000 which helped to leverage \$350 million dollars of investment in the 19 Cool Cities Neighborhoods. Cool Cities has become a movement and a nationally acclaimed collaborative model for economic engagement and community revitalization.

Previously, Ms. Gagnon worked in the department’s Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs where she was a Liaison between department and legislature to solve constituent concerns with state government. In recognition of her work with helping constituents with unemployment issues, Governor Granholm surprised Ms. Gagnon with a visit and presentation of a special appreciation gift. She was also the first recipient of DLEG Director David C. Hollister’s Employee Recognition “Special Delivery” in response to a legislator’s letter commending Ms. Gagnon’s work.

Ms. Gagnon also has 12 years of experience working in health regulation, including the health facility licensing and certification, health promotion and chronic disease prevention and substance abuse services. She received a Grand Idea Award for large state departments saving the State \$80,000 a year.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## DOUG KALINOWSKI

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Doug Kalinowski was appointed to serve as Acting Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) effective July 3, 2006. In this position he oversees operations of the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA), the Workers' Compensation Agency, the Wage and Hour Division, the MES Board of Review, the Workers' Compensation Magistrates, and the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission.

Since September 29, 2002, Doug has served as director of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). In that role he directed the MIOSHA program, which is responsible for enforcing the workplace safety and health provisions of the MIOSH Act, Public Act 154 of 1974, as amended and for providing outreach services.

From February 1997 to October 2002, Doug served as deputy director, with responsibilities for all enforcement programs.

In conjunction with his MIOSHA responsibilities, Doug serves as past chair of the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association (OSHSPA), a national organization representing 26 state-run worker safety and health programs. He has been active in the association for 16 years and has served as a member of the Board of Directors for seven years.

Doug served as chief of the Division of Occupational Health from May 1993 to February 1997. He joined the MIOSHA health program in January 1980 and served in various positions until his appointment as chief.

Doug obtained his undergraduate degree in 1978 and an M.S. in Industrial Hygiene in 1979, both from the University of Michigan. He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and a member of the American Academy of Industrial Hygiene, The American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.



# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## RICHARD H. WACLAWEK

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## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Richard H. Wacławek has been director of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives since April 2005. The bureau provides data on occupational wages, job outlooks, industry forecasts and employment statistics for the state of Michigan.

Rick has extensive experience in the global automotive industry, most recently in corporate business operations, business and strategic planning, and product portfolio management.

He has a strong international background both as a global director of corporate strategy and as a manager on an international assignment in Europe. He also possesses a broad technical background in engineering of automotive components and systems and has more than 14 years experience in engineering and corporate management.

Prior to joining the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Rick served as global director of corporate strategy and business development for Visteon Corporation in Dearborn.

From 1971 to 2000, he was employed by the Ford Motor Company in positions ranging from development engineer and chief product analyst to European operations planning and program manager for electronics.

An engineering graduate of the University of Michigan, Rick has a master's degree in business administration, also from U of M.



# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## JOHN H. (JACK) FINN

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

John (Jack) Finn serves as director of the Wage and Hour Division. He joined the division after serving as an attorney and lobbyist with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. He has also worked with Michigan House and Senate staff and is a former member of the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board.

Wage & Hour administers and enforces the laws that protect the wages and fringe benefits of Michigan's workers and provide for the safe and legal employment of minors.

As director of the division, Jack coordinates managers, investigators, and support staff in the enforcement of laws dealing with wage and hour issues of employment. He also interacts with business and labor on these issues.

He is a social science graduate of Michigan State University and received his law degree from the Detroit College of Law.

Jack is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Labor Law Section.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## HENRY L. GREEN

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Henry L. Green was appointed executive director of the Bureau of Construction Codes in 1998. He has worked in the bureau for more than 20 years, serving as a building inspector, chief of the Barrier Free Design Division, chief building inspector and deputy director.

Henry provides management and oversight for construction programs in the state of Michigan. His program responsibilities include the development and implementation of construction codes and standards, construction inspection programs for all elements of the built environment, and the education and training of code officials in Michigan.

Henry also serves as project director for the Michigan Timely Applications and Permit Service (MiTAPS), an on-line processing system for permits and licenses issued by the state of Michigan.

He is currently the president of the International Code Council Board of Directors, an organization of which he is a founding member. He also served on the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) Board of Directors for 10 years, and was president in 1997. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences, completing a term as chairman of the Board of Directors in 2004.

Henry has been recognized nationally and internationally as a proponent for developing and implementing building and fire safety initiatives and codes. In 1990, the Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFFA) named him "Man of the Year" for his contributions to life safety as chairman of the BOCA Ad Hoc Committee for Fire Protection.

In 1998, Henry received the "Distinguished Service to Government" award from the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, and was awarded the Walker S. Lee Award in recognition of outstanding service to BOCA International in 1999.

He has also participated in national and international code forums representing building code officials at World Organization of Building Officials conferences in Hong Kong and Australia. In October 2005, Henry presented information before the United States House of Representatives Science Committee outlining information relative to the World Trade Center Report and on the 2005 Hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. Henry has presented to numerous state and national organizations including the American Institute of Architects, the National Home Builders Association, the Caribbean-Central American Action Association, Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference, Japanese Code Officials Association and the Building Owners and Managers Association.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## PETER L. PLUMMER ESQ.

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

In April 2005, Peter L. Plummer was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to be executive director of the state's newest type I agency, the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules. As executive director and chief administrative law judge, Peter is responsible for the organization and management of a staff of 175 that processes more than 125,000 matters each year.

Peter began his 30-year career in law at Wayne County Legal Aid as an attorney in the Juvenile Defender's office. From there he traveled to Marquette, Michigan, to join the Marquette County Prosecutor's office. After leaving that office to become a partner in the firm of Seitz, Osstyn, Bays and Plummer, Peter returned to the Prosecutor's office when appointed chief assistant prosecuting attorney.

After 15 years as chief assistant, Peter was appointed assistant attorney general in the State Office of the Attorney General's Public Employment and Elections Division and later in the Gaming Division to help investigate entities that sought casino licenses from the state Gaming Board.

After presenting the State's case in the first casino license hearing in Michigan, then Attorney General Jennifer Granholm asked Peter to be a part of her new High Tech Crime Unit, which was formed to help protect Michigan's citizens and their children from the hazards of the Cyber world. He prosecuted computer-related offenses, including murder and pornography as well as fraud and deception.

He co-prosecuted the first murder case in the nation that relied almost exclusively on computer evidence. That trial has been featured on NBC -Dateline, Court TV, Forensic Files, and the Oxygen Channel, and was the basis for the novel *Fatal Error*. Peter also formed and managed the State's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a federally funded joint effort of the Attorney General and the Michigan State Police. Mr. Plummer is the past Vice Chair of the ICAC Task Force National Board.

Peter graduated cum laude from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## RUTHANNE OKUN

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

As director of the Bureau of Employment Relations, Ruthanne Okun supervises the Detroit, Lansing and out state-area staff of the bureau, and is legal advisor to the Employment Relations Commission. She has been employed in the field of labor and employment relations for the past 24 years.

Ruthanne was employed for nearly five years with the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone in its labor and employment relations department and was a partner at the Riverview law firm of Logan, Wyckoff and Okun, P.C. The combination of direct, hands-on experience in labor relations and extensive legal practice has provided Ruthanne with an array of knowledge and a unique perspective on employee relations issues.

In her legal practice, Ruthanne has negotiated collective bargaining agreements with the Michigan Education Association, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Teamsters, United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union, Police Officers Labor Council, and Police Officers Association of Michigan, among others.

Ruthanne has served on the faculty of Macomb Community College, where she has taught courses in Personnel and the Law and Human Resources Management. She is a past president of the Michigan Public Employer Labor Relations Association and is a frequent speaker on employment-related matters.

She graduated magna cum laude from Michigan State University in 1974 and from Notre Dame Law School in 1983, where she was the assistant legislative research editor of the *Journal of Legislation*. Prior to attending law school, Ruthanne served as the personnel and employee relations director of Larden Company, a manufacturing concern with facilities in Davisburg, Michigan, and Plymouth, Indiana.

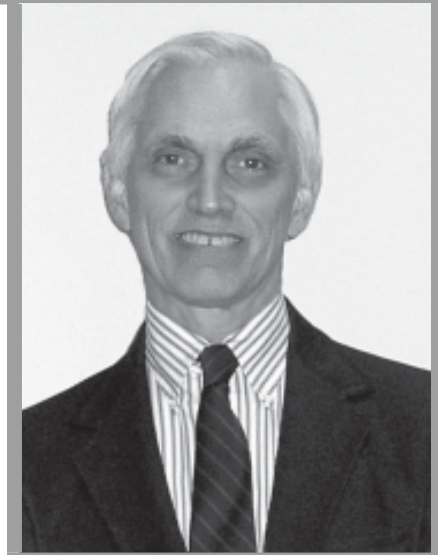
She is a member of the State Bars of Michigan and Illinois.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## DUNCAN O. WYETH

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Duncan O. Wyeth, who has been executive director of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns (MCDC) since 2003, has advocated on behalf of persons with disabilities for more than 30 years. His philosophy is that state government needs to pursue courses of action to ensure that all 1.9 million Michiganians with disabilities can fully participate in all of the programs, services and activities that are afforded every other citizen in this state.

Duncan advances this philosophy through MCDC's many programs and activities, which touch not just on persons with disabilities, but also on business owners, workplace supervisors, and policy makers.

Numerous awards have been conferred on Duncan over the years that reflect both the sincerity and extent of his advocacy efforts. Among these are the Public Service Award in State Government from the American Society for Public Administration; induction into the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame; President's Award from the national United Cerebral Palsy Association; Outstanding Achievement Award from the Michigan Rehabilitation Association; Outstanding Alumnus Award from Michigan State University; and National Leadership Award from the National Council on Disability.

Duncan began his professional career as a teacher and administrator with the Lansing Catholic Schools system for eight years. He then moved into the disability arena in 1977 by accepting a position as coordinator of services and resources for Lansing's new independent living center. A year later, he became director of the center. He has also served as director of consumer activities at the national office of the United Cerebral Palsy Association in New York City, director of the Client Assistance Program within Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and consumer customer relations specialist for Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Duncan also earned a master's degree from MSU, graduating magna cum laude.



# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



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## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

With many years of service in management, public information, broadcasting, disability rights and advocacy, Pat Cannon brought a unique blend of experiences and abilities with him when he was appointed director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind in 1997. As head of the state's rehabilitation agency for people who are blind, Pat continues his longstanding commitment to change what it means to be a person with a disability in Michigan and America today.

The Commission operates a residential training center in Kalamazoo, and provides independent living services for Michigan's older blind population, low-vision services for the state's youth and entrepreneurial opportunities for blind persons through its Business Enterprise Program. The Commission serves under a five-member board appointed by the Governor and has a staff of nearly 100 in nine offices throughout the state.

Previously, Pat was director of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns for 10 years, where he was instrumental in gaining passage of the 1990 amendments to the Michigan Handicappers' Civil Rights Act and advocated for enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Pat has conducted hundreds of seminars and workshops on disability rights, blindness and disability awareness and is a member of the Advanced ADA National Training Network. He is also a trainer for Windmills, the nationally acclaimed disability awareness program.

He is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association, the Council of State Administrators in Vocational Rehabilitation, and serves on the Executive Board of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind. He also serves on the Capital Area Transportation Authority's Board of Directors. In 1995, Pat was appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Access Board, the independent federal regulatory agency whose mission is accessibility for people with disabilities, serving as the Board's chair in 1997 and 1998. He was named Disability Policy Advisor to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in 2003 and also as her State ADA Coordinator in 2004.

Pat's involvement with organizations and community projects includes the Easter Seal Society, and the St. Vincent's Home for Children Board of Directors.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



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## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Jaye N. Shamsiddeen is director of Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), the state's general vocational rehabilitation agency. The mission of MRS is to provide services for individuals with disabilities so they may achieve employment and self-sufficiency.

MRS operates 36 field offices across the state as well as the Michigan Career & Technical Institute near Plainwell. MRS programs also include Business Services, Disability Management, and Farm Injury Rehab.

Jaye provides overall leadership and direction for MRS by determining strategic priorities, allocating resources, and coordinating the executive leadership team. She also establishes working relationships with consumers, advocates, allied agencies, and advisory councils. It is her responsibility to implement federal and state legislation pertaining to rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

Jaye has been with MRS since 1976, when she began her rehabilitation career as a counselor. She has held the positions of unit leader, staff development supervisor, casework consultant, deputy division director, division director, and deputy state director.

She is a graduate of Michigan State University (MSU), with a major in psychology. She has a master's degree in counseling and guidance, also from MSU.

Jaye is a member of the Michigan Rehabilitation Association and previously served as a governor-appointed member of the Michigan Developmental Disability Council.



# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## BETTIE SHAW-HENDERSON

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Bettie Shaw-Henderson has served as deputy director of Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) since 2004. She serves as chief operations officer, developing and managing bureau work plans with MRS division directors. She is also responsible for allocating funds for case services, human resources and operations.

Previously, Bettie managed MRS's Division III, which includes 14 site offices and several statewide program initiatives. She was also manager of MRS's Grand Rapids District Office, where she led the MRS Workforce Development effort as a Kent-Allegan Workforce Development Executive Board member.

Bettie's list of accomplishments includes chairing the Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board and spearheading the reorganization of the infrastructure transition from Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to Workforce Investment Act (WIA). She assisted Genesee County with acquisition of a Job Corp Center and helped the community establish the Sylvester Broome, Jr., Training Technology Center in Flint.

While managing the Saginaw MRS office, Bettie developed and managed the first McDonald's Job Program in Michigan — part of a new national partnership among human services agencies and McDonald's Corporation.

Bettie joined MRS in 1980 as a counselor at the Warren office (now Roseville). Prior to joining MRS, she worked as an employment counselor with the former Michigan Employment Security Commission.

Bettie was president of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) after serving as national Job Placement Division leader, National Association of Multi-Cultural Rehabilitation Concerns Board Member, and president of the Michigan Rehabilitation Association. As NRA president, Bettie testified in Congress in support of public vocational rehabilitation. In 2003, Bettie was called to testify in Congress on proposed changes in the Workforce Investment Act.

She has received numerous awards, including Supervisor of the Year from Michigan State's University Rehabilitation Counseling Program, Outstanding Professional Award at the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference, Outstanding Professional Award from the National Rehabilitation Association of Job Placement and Development, and Counselor of the Year from the Michigan Rehabilitation Counseling Association. She has also been a Switzer Scholar.

A graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy, she also has a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, from U of D Mercy.

Bettie is a Michigan State University Advisory Board member and member of NRA's executive director search team.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## MARTHA YODER

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Martha B. Yoder was appointed to serve as acting director of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), effective July 3, 2006. In this role, she oversees the MIOSHA program, which is responsible for enforcing workplace safety and health standards and providing consultation, education and training, and outreach services.

As acting director, Martha is responsible for the overall administration and enforcement of the safety and health provisions of the MIOSH Act, Public Act 154 of 1974, as amended. The MIOSHA program is committed to reducing fatalities, injuries and illnesses and ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for all employees.

MIOSHA, working together with committed employers and employees, has been and will continue to be a leader in workplace safety and health. National research shows that a strong safety and health management system can generate significant economic benefits for businesses.

In October 2002, Martha was appointed deputy director of the MIOSHA program. In that position, she was responsible for overseeing Michigan's safety and health enforcement divisions, which includes both occupational safety and health compliance in general industry and construction. The outreach activities of the Consultation Education and Training Division also came under her direction.

Martha's previous MIOSHA experience includes chief of the General Industry Safety Division, supervisor and program developer in the Consultation Education and Training Division, and executive assistant to the MIOSHA Director.

Martha has extensive experience developing and conducting programs to encourage voluntary compliance, including implementation of successful safety and health management systems. During her more than 20 years with the MIOSHA program, Martha has worked on numerous assignments, including implementing the goals of the MIOSHA Strategic Plan.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, she holds a Master of Public Administration degree.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## SEMONE M. JAMES

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Semone M. James serves as executive director of the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority. She is responsible for managing the operations of the Authority and the coordinated disposition of tax-reverted properties in an effort to encourage economic development and growth. She also provides the Authority Board of Directors with regular reports on the activities and financial condition of the Authority.

Semone previously served as a senior portfolio manager/investment specialist for the State of Michigan Retirement System in the Michigan Department of Treasury. There she was responsible for the asset management oversight of equity real estate investments held across the United States and Victoria, British Columbia. She also served as a senior property analyst, revenue & leasing representative, and staff appraiser with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Semone holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Eastern Michigan University, with dual majors in finance and real estate.

She is currently pursuing the Member of the Appraisal Institute designation and serves on the Board of Directors for its Mid-Michigan Chapter. She is a licensed real estate broker and certified general appraiser in the State of Michigan.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## JACK A. NOLISH

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Jack Nolish brings more than 30 years of professional experience to his position as the director of Workers' Compensation Agency, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Jack, a highly regarded attorney practicing disability law, to the Board of Magistrates in February 2004; elevated him to chairperson in April of that year; and appointed him director of the Workers' Compensation Agency in December of 2005.

Prior to his appointment, he successfully represented hundreds of clients for Worker's Compensation and other claims, appearing in state and federal courts and before various administrative agencies on behalf of his clients.

Additionally, Jack has served as a legal expert, lecturing to a number of professional groups on legal matters regarding Workers' Compensation and Social Security. He has been a speaker at numerous seminars sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education; the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association; Michigan Self-Insurers Association; and various labor organizations and has spoken to many disability support groups. Jack has testified before committees of the Michigan State House and Senate on Workers' Compensation issues and related legislative proposals.

Jack is proud to carry the highest "AV" rating in the prestigious Martindale-Hubbel index of attorneys. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and other professional organizations including the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Jack received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Oakland University and his Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School.

# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



## TERRY FOBBS

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Terry Fobbs serves as a senior policy administrator for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. Terry joined Michigan government in 1993 when he was appointed director of the Office of Strategic Planning for the Michigan Employment Security Commission. In April 1994, he was assigned as a Workforce Development Executive, Office of Workforce Development, Michigan Jobs Commission.

**When the Jobs Commission became a new department in February 1995, Terry was assigned as part of the senior management team for the Bureau of Economic Development Job Training, where he served as the director of Field Operations and Quality Assurance. With the reorganization of the Michigan Jobs Commission, Terry served as a Workforce Development executive with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.**

In 2000 he was transferred to the Michigan Department of Career Development where he was assigned as the deputy director for Postsecondary Services. In 2001, he was assigned as the directing quality associate who oversaw the department's statewide Baldrige quality efforts with the QUEST (Quality Underlies Every Single Task) Team. Terry is an ISO 9000 certified lead assessor, a Baldrige quality examiner with the Center for Excellence in Education and the Michigan Quality Council, and a recipient of the Michigan Quality Council Quality Hero Award.

Terry graduated from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in 1975 with a B.S. degree in zoology and a commission as a U.S. Army second lieutenant. In 1982, he earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. In 2001, he earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in leadership from Capella University in Minnesota.

Terry retired from the Active Reserves after 30 years of service with the rank of colonel in June 2005. He is also member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, the Reserve Officer's Association, the Senior Army Reserve Commander's Association, the Association of the United States Army, and the Michigan Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

He has served in a wide variety of command and staff assignments around the world including wartime service during Operation Desert Storm. His military assignments include Commander, 406<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Operations Officer, 8803<sup>rd</sup> Headquarters Brigade, Southfield, Michigan; Chief of Staff, 300th Military Police Command, Inkster, Michigan; Commander, 645<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, Southfield, Michigan; and returned in October 2004 from serving in Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo where he commanded Area Support Group Falcon in support of NATO peace enforcement operations and support of US Forces in Kosovo, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Greece.